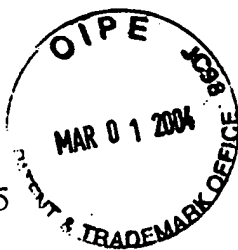


P20339.A05



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Masaru EGUCHI et al.

Group Art Unit: 2873

Appl. No: : 09/818,504

Examiner: Scott Sugarman

Filed : March 28, 2001

For : A FOCUSING METHOD FOR ZOOM LENS SYSTEM

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED

Sir:

MAR 08 2004

In response to the Official Action of August 29, 2003, in which a three-month shortened statutory period for response was set to expire on December 1, 2003 and which has been extended, by the herein enclosed request for Extension of Time, to expire on March 1, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection in view of the herein contained reply:

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this Reply.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this Reply.